

party to the more obscure tribes of plants. They are little more than lists of names, and do not admit of abstract.

9. "Notice of some of the contents of the Museum in the Edinburgh Botanic Garden." By Prof. Balfour.

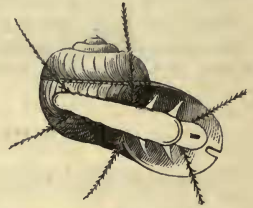
### MISCELLANEOUS.

*Memorandum on the Animal of Scissurella crispata.*

By LUCAS BARRETT, F.G.S.

TENTACLES long, serrated, at the base of which are placed the eyes; foot furnished with two pointed lappets and two long slender serrated cirri on each side. Operculum very thin, ovate, with an obscure subspirial nucleus.

No part of the animal was external to the shell. The only living specimen occurred at Hammerfest, in 40 to 80 fathoms' water. When it was placed in a glass of sea-water, it crawled up the side and scraped the glass with its tongue. After immersion in spirit it became inky-black.



*Notes on the Marine Fauna of Weymouth.*

*To the Editors of the Annals of Natural History.*

Weymouth, Jan. 23, 1856.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to record the occurrence of *Squilla Desmarestii* at Weymouth as follows:—

In the autumn of 1851, a specimen was brought me that had been dredged in Weymouth Bay, near Portland. It measured  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches. It is in my cabinet.

On the 22nd December, 1855, I picked up one alive on Melcombe Sands. We had previously had several days of heavy gales from the eastward. This specimen, though alive, had been so long out of the water that it did not recover.

A third specimen was procured by my man on the 1st January, 1856. It was dredged in Weymouth Bay, in twelve fathoms' water. The bottom was of pebbles, and also live and dead *Pecten opercularis*. In my man's phraseology, it was a "pebbly and squinny bottom, with a lot of live squins." *Pecten opercularis* are here called Squins.

This specimen, I am happy to say, is now lively and well, and will enable me to give some information as to its habits. I have as yet only tried it with a pebbly and shingly bottom, and am therefore not in a position to write certainly as to its burrowing habits. I have satisfied myself as to its mode of progression, and can state that its tail is *not* used for that purpose, but solely as a *defensive* weapon. I hope shortly to complete my paper on its habits.

*Gebia deltura*.—On the 22nd December, 1855, I found on Weymouth Sands, at the same time with *Squilla Desmarestii*, two living specimens of *Gebia deltura*. Although living, they were too much injured to recover, and I was thus unfortunately prevented from studying their habits. The length of the larger one is nearly 2½ inches, and the smaller one 2 inches.

Great numbers of Harvey's *Syrinx* were thrown up at the same time, as also numerous specimens of an Actinia, which I doubtfully refer to *Actinia chrysanthellum* (Peach).

I am, Gentlemen, yours obediently,  
WILLIAM THOMPSON.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR DEC. 1855.

*Chiswick*.—December 1. Hazy: very fine: rain. 2. Cloudy: rain. 3. Clear and frosty. 4. Foggy: drizzly. 5. Clear: overcast. 6. Slight snow: windy at night. 7. Clear: fine. 8. Cloudy and cold. 9. Frosty: cloudy and cold: foggy. 10. Overcast: slight snow. 11. Uniform haze. 12. Overcast: sharp frost. 13. Frosty: fine, with sun: clear and frosty. 14. Overcast: rain. 15. Densely overcast: cloudy. 16. Fine: foggy. 17. Foggy. 18. Cloudy and cold. 19. Clear, cold and dry. 20. Frosty, with dry air. 21. Frosty throughout the day: severe Frost at night. 22. Frosty: overcast. 23. Overcast: fine: showery. 24. Very fine: showery at night. 25. Rain. 26. Boisterous, with rain. 27. Rain: cloudy: fine. 28. Very fine. 29. Fine: very fine: slight rain. 30. Cloudy and fine. 31. Fine throughout.

Mean temperature of the month .....	34° 99
Mean temperature of Dec. 1854 .....	39 35
Mean temperature of Dec. for the last twenty-nine years ...	39 64
Average amount of rain in Dec. ....	1 492 inches.

*Boston*.—Dec. 1. Cloudy: rain P.M. 2. Fine. 3. Cloudy. 4. Fine. 5. Cloudy. 6. Fine: snow A.M. 7. Cloudy: snow P.M. 8, 9. Cloudy: snow A.M. and P.M. 10. Fine: snow A.M. and P.M. 11—13. Fine. 14. Cloudy: rain A.M. and P.M. 15. Cloudy. 16—21. Fine. 22. Cloudy: snow A.M. 23. cloudy: snow and rain A.M., and rain P.M. 24. Fine. 25, 26. Cloudy: rain A.M. and P.M. 27—29. Fine. 30, 31. Cloudy.

*Sandwick Manse, Orkney*.—Dec. 1. Drizzle A.M.: clear P.M. 2. Damp A.M.: damp, vapours P.M. 3. Showers A.M.: drizzly showers P.M. 4. Rain A.M.: showers P.M. 5. Snow-showers A.M.: sleet P.M. 6. Snow-showers A.M. and P.M. 7. Sleet-showers A.M.: clear, frost P.M. 8. Cloudy A.M.: cloudy, frost P.M. 9. Cloudy A.M.: fine, frost P.M. 10. Cloudy A.M.: showers P.M. 11, 12. Snow-showers A.M. and P.M. 13. Cloudy A.M.: showers P.M. 14. Rain A.M.: drizzle P.M. 15. Showers A.M.: showers, thunder and lightning P.M. 16. Hail-showers A.M.: sleet-showers P.M. 17. Fine A.M.: fine, cloudy P.M. 18. Cloudy A.M.: sleet-showers P.M. 19. Cloudy A.M. and P.M. 20. Bright A.M.: Cloudy P.M. 21. Bright A.M.: clear P.M. 22. Clear, frost A.M. and P.M. 23. Snow-showers A.M.: rain, clear P.M. 24. Bright A.M.: rain P.M. 25. Bright A.M.: clear P.M. 26. Drizzle A.M.: rain P.M. 27. Rain, drizzle A.M.: fine, cloudy P.M. 28. Damp A.M.: rain P.M. 29. Bright A.M.: cloudy P.M. 30. Bright A.M.: clear, aurora P.M. 31. Bright A.M.: cloudy P.M..

Mean temperature of Dec. for twenty-eight previous years ...	41° 03
Mean temperature of the month .....	39 41
Mean temperature of Dec. 1854 .....	39 13
Average quantity of rain in Dec. for fifteen previous years ...	4 21 inches.

The following are the averages for November 1855, with which we have been favoured by our correspondent the Rev. Ch. Clouston of Sandwick Manse, whose usual report miscarried owing to the stormy weather which then prevailed:—

Barometer.		Thermometer.		Rain
A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	in inches.
29·970	29·976.	43·53	43·46	1·37.